

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAN JO 00295 01 OF 02 212020Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02  
IO-13 AID-05 EB-08 SAB-01 /096 W  
-----212134Z 001432 /70

R 211802Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6236  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SCTION 1 OF 2 SAN JOSE 0295

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: TODMAN INTERVIEW WITH LA NACION

1. FOLLOWING ARE LOOSELY-TRANSLATED EXCERPTS FROM JANUARY 19  
LA NACION'S REPORT OF A LENGTHY INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR  
TODMAN. LA NACION, SAN JOSE'S LEADING DAILY, CARRIED THE  
REPORT ON ITS FRONT PAGE.

A. ON U.S.-L.A. POLICY:

-- IN ITS APPROACH TO LATIN AMERICA, UWJRS. SHOULD PUT  
MORE EMPHASIS ON ITS RELATION WITH DEMOCRATIC  
COUNTRIES SUCH AS COSTA RICA.

--U.S. CANNOT HAVE A SINGLE POLICY TO TO GOVERN OUR  
RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA. IN THIS AREA OF THE  
WORLD U.S. HAS TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC ISSUES AND  
COUNTRIES JUST AS WE DO IN ALL OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 SAN JO 00295 01 OF 02 212020Z

B. ON HUMAN RIGHTS:

--THE U.S. CAN PROVIDE MORE HELP TO DEMOCRATIC  
NATIONS (SUCH AS COSTA RICA) BECAUSE THEIR  
GOVERNMENTS AND SOCIETIES ARE BASED ON THE  
SAME IDEALS AND PHILOSOPHY THAT GAVE BIRTH  
TO THE U.S. THE U.S. WILL EMPHASIZE ITS

SUPPORT FOR THOSE NATIONS THAT RESPECT  
HUMAN RIGHTS AND ESSENTIAL LIBERTIES.

--THE U.S. CAN FURTHER THE CAUSE OF HUMAN  
RIGHTS BY BRINGING DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE  
TO BEAR ON THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE THESE  
RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED. THIS DOES NOT MEAN,  
HOWEVER, THAT WE SHOULD NOT MAINTAIN  
RELATIONS WITH THESE NATIONS. DISAGREE-  
MENT WITH A NATION'S POLITICAL SYSTEM DOES  
NOT IMPLY THAT THE U.S. CANNOT DEAL WITH  
IT.

--THOSE WHO CRITICIZE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLA-  
TIONS IN CERTAIN HEMISPHERIC NATIONS AND  
NOT IN OTHERS ARE INCONSISTENT. THE SITUATION  
IN CHILE, WHERE OUTSIDE INVESTIGATORS ARE  
ALLOWED ACCESS AND CAN REPORT THROUGH  
OBSERVATION ON CHARGES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS,  
CANNOT BE COMPARED TO THAT EXISTING  
IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS CUBA WHERE  
INVESTIGATIONS CANNOT BE MADE.

C. ON U.S./CUBAN RELATIONS:

-- IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE U.S. CANNOT LIVE  
IN A STATE OF PERPETUAL HOSTILITY WITH  
ANY NATION.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAN JO 00295 01 OF 02 212020Z

--REESTABLISHMENT OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH  
CUBA DEPENDS ON THAT NATION'S AGREEMENT  
TO LIVE WITHIN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM  
AND TO RESPECT INTERNATIONAL NORMS OF  
CO-EXISTENCE.

--"THE SAME DIPLOMATIC PRESSURES THAT CAN  
BE APPLIED AGAINST OTHER NATIONS IN  
SUPPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS CAN BE  
EXERCISED ON CUBA. IF WE HAVE RELATIONS  
WITH CUBA IT WOULD NOT PREVENT US  
FROM RECOGNIZING AND CRITICIZING THE  
FACT THAT IN THAT COUNTRY THERE ARE BASIC  
LIBERTIES THAT ARE NOT BEING RESPECTED."  
(THE AMBASSADOR AGREED WITH THE INTERVIEWER'S  
OBSERVATION THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO PER-  
CEPTIBLE CHANGE IN CUBAN POLICY ON  
HUMAN RIGHTS)

D. ON TODMAN'S NOMINATION TO BE ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ARA:

--"I BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER,  
LIKE SECRETARY OF STATE DESIGNATE VANCE,  
BELIEVES THAT I BRING TO THIS POSITION ALL  
THE PROFESSIONAL REQUISITES AND PREPARA-  
TION, AREA EXPERIENCE AND ATTITUDES  
TOWARDS LATIN AMERICAN PROBLEMS NECESSARY  
TO DO A GOOD JOB."

--THIS SELECTION WAS NOT MADE TO NEUTRALIZE  
AN ESTEBAN TORRES NOMINATION. TODMAN  
WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR THE POSITION  
LONG BEFORE TORRES HAD BEEN MENTIONED AS  
AN ASPIRANT FOR THE JOB. TODMAN WAS  
SELECTED FOR HIS PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SAN JO 00295 01 OF 02 212020Z

"IF AT ANY TIME I HAD FELT THAT I WAS  
SELECTED BECAUSE I AM BLACK, I WOULD NOT  
HAVE ACCEPTED THE POSITION."

--THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR LATIN  
AMERICAN AFFAIRS IS NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO FORMS  
POLICY TOWARDS THE REGION. THE FIRST OBJEC-  
TIVE IN THE NEW JOB IS TO OBTAIN THE  
SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY  
FOR HIS VIEWS VIS-A-VIS RELATIONS WITH THE  
HEMISPHERE. "I ACCEPTED THE POSITION  
BECAUSE I AM CONFIDENT MY POINTS OF VIEW  
AND IDEAS WILL BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED  
WHEN POLICY IS DEFINED."

--TODMAN BELIEVES HE SHOULD HAVE NO  
PROBLEM BEING CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 00295 02 OF 02 212059Z  
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 SAN JOSE 0295

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS  
SUBJECT: TODMAN INTERVIEW WITH LA NACION

E. ON HIS PERSONAL BELIEFS AND QUALIFICATIONS:

--"HUMAN RIGHTS IS A PART OF MY BASIC PERSONAL  
PHILOSOPHY."

--"I AM NOT CONSERVATIVE, BUT I BELIEVE IN  
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND INITIATIVE PARTICULARLY  
BECAUSE I CONSIDER THAT ONLY THE EXERCISE OF  
COMPLETE FREEDOM PERMITS THE TOTAL DEVELOPMENT  
OF HUMAN POTENTIAL."

--"AS FAR AS NOT HAVING EXPERIENCE IN LATIN  
AMERICAN AFFAIRS, I MUST SAY THAT THERE ARE  
GOOD EXPERIENCES AND BAD ONES AND NOBODY CAN  
SAY THAT HE HAS TOTAL EXPERIENCE."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAN JO 00295 02 OF 02 212059Z

--"I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN THE CARIBBEAN,  
GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO,  
HAVE VISITED 13 COUNTRIES IN THE REGION,  
HAVE READ EXTENSIVELY ABOUT LATIN AMERICAN  
AFFAIRS AND HAVE LIVED TWO YEARS IN COSTA  
RICA. I HAVE A PRACTICAL VIEW OF AREA  
PROBLEMS."

--AFTER THE FIRST PERIOD IN THE JOB, "I  
WOULD LIKE TO VISIT ALL LATIN AMERICAN  
NATIONS, TO MEET WITH THEIR LEADERS AND  
DEVELOP A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH  
THE PEOPLE."

F. ON THE PANAMA CANAL:

--THE U.S. IS INTERESTED IN A CANAL OPEN TO ALL COUNTRIES WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION, DULY PROTECTED, AND FUNCTIONING EFFICIENTLY. "I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THESE OBJECTIVES ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH RECOGNITION OF PANAMANIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CANAL."

--TO ACCELERATE TO THE MAXIMUM NEGOTIATIONS TO OBTAIN AN AGREEMENT THAT SATISFIES THE ASPIRATIONS OF PANAMA AND OF LATIN AMERICA IS ONE OF THE PRIORITY TASKS OF THE NEW ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S JOB.

--THE BIG PROBLEM IS CONVINCING AMERICANS THAT AN AGREEMENT THAT RESPECTS PANAMANIAN RIGHTS IS NATURAL AND APPROPRIATE FOR THIS TIME IN HISTORY, AND MOREOVER, THAT IT IS ADVANTAGEOUS FOR U.S. INTERESTS.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 SAN JO 00295 02 OF 02 212059Z

--THE POSITIONS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE ARE THE DECISIVE ONES IN THIS MATTER. ALSO IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, ARE THE VIEWS OF OTHER REPRESENTATIVE U.S. GROUPS WHICH HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO DEMAND THE PROTECTION OF U.S. INTERESTS.

--THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN IS TO HAVE A SITUATION OF CONFRONTATION WITH PANAMA - SOMETHING THAT NEITHER WE NOR PANAMA DESIRE.

G. ON TRADE ISSUES:

--TRADE PROBLEMS ARE THE MOST DIFFICULT BECAUSE THEY ARE STRONGLY TIED TO INTERNAL POLITICS.

--THE PRINCIPLE OF COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE FUNCTIONS, BUT THERE ARE PRINCIPLES OF EQUITY AS WELL. NATIONS THAT PRODUCE RAW MATERIALS HAVE A RIGHT TO A "JUST INCOME" IN THE SAME WAY THAT CONSUMERS HAVE THE RIGHT OF "JUST PRICES" AND "REGULAR SUPPLIES."

--NO COUNTRY WHICH HAS A STRONG EXPORT  
ECONOMY BENEFITS FROM PERIODS OF HIGH INCOME,  
AND THEN SUDDENLY, LOW INCOME - SUCH AS IN THE  
CASE OF SUGAR.

--WITH FREE TRADE, ALL BENEFIT. U.S. WILL  
CONTINUE TO WORK FOR TARIFF REDUCTIONS AT  
GATT.  
TODMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009